

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 and 50-69 are pending. Claims 1 and 50 are independent.

In the Official Action, the restriction was made final, the specification was objected to; the drawings were objected to; claims 1-4, 7-8, 14, 50-53, 56-57 and 63 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Otsuka (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0021593) and Martin (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/0055912); claims 5 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Otsuka, Martin and Teramoto (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2002/0006094); claims 9-10, 15-20, 58-59 and 64-69 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Otsuka, Martin and Ludvig (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2004/0073941); and claims 6, 11-13, 55 and 60-62 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious in view of Otsuka, Martin and Tsumagari (U.S. Patent Pub. No. 2003/016165).

The specification is amended in response to the current objections to the specification and drawings. No new matter is added.

Briefly recapitulating, claim 1 is directed to

A method for connecting a media player to a remote server, the method comprising:

processing a request for connecting to a remote server while reproducing data recorded on an enhanced navigation medium;

processing connection information recorded on the enhanced navigation medium to determine whether connection to the remote server is permitted; and

requesting connection to the remote server, if connection to the remote server is permitted in accordance with the connection information.

Claim 50 recites, *inter alia*, a control unit configured to control the signal processor and the memory, the control unit configured to cause the apparatus to a) process a request for connecting to a remote server while reproducing data recorded on an enhanced navigation medium; b) process connection information recorded on the enhanced navigation medium to determine whether connection to the remote server is permitted; and c) request connection to the remote server, if connection to the remote server is permitted in accordance with the connection information.

Otsuka describes a method of controlling an operations mode of an optical disc player between a user agent mode and a video playback mode, comprising: reading an interactive program stored on a local optical disc, wherein the interactive program includes a first function that specifies either of the user agent mode or the video playback mode; and changing the operations mode of the optical disc player to the specified mode.

FIG. 1 of Otsuka illustrates a block diagram of an exemplary optical disc player 100 having network access capability. The optical disc player 100 comprises an optical disc reading device 104, a volatile memory 106 (e.g. random access memory), a non-volatile memory 108 (e.g. a magnetic hard disk, flash read only memory (ROM), an electrically erasable programmable read only memory (EEPROM), a network interface 110 (e.g. an interface to the Internet), a video/audio device interface 112, and a user control interface 114. All of the elements are data coupled to a centralized processor 102 as represented by the lines drawn respectively from these elements to the processor 102.

The optical disc player 100 of Otsuka can operate in at least two modes: a video playback mode and a user agent mode. In video playback mode, the optical disc player 100 functions to

access and display video content stored on the local optical disc 116, such as would a standard DVD player. In video playback mode, the video menu displayed on displaying device (e.g. television, computer monitor) is used to control the playback of the video content. In user agent mode, the optical disc player is configured to run a user agent program (e.g. a browser) to allow a user to access website documents on a network or stored in the local optical disc 116, and perform various functions associated with the website document. In the user agent mode, the video content stored on the local optical disc 116 may be shown in a framed window within the user agent window. In user agent mode, the user agent menu is used to control the playback of the video content.

However, contrary to the Official Action, Otsuka does not disclose or suggest processing connection information recorded on the enhanced navigation medium to determine whether connection to the remote server is permitted. The user agent program of Otsuka allows a user to access website documents on a network or stored in a local archive. The user agent program only allows the user to connect to the network or archive. That is, the user agent program connects to any remote sever on the network because Otsuka does not specify which location/server should be connected. Thus, Otsuka does not disclose or suggest "connection information ... to determine whether connection to the remote server is permitted."

Martin describes a method for providing a network connection between a network browser and a network, the method comprising: (a) selecting a particular network address to access a server machine coupled to the network, the server machine being identified by the particular network address; (b) subsequently providing a network connection between the network browser and the server machine in accordance with connection information associated

with the particular network address; and (c) accessing the server machine located at the particular network address using the network connection.

In Martin, controllable network connections are established between the mobile device 102 and the network 108. As a result, network characteristics or quality of service for particular connections can be set. The network connections are controlled using connection information. Preferably, the connection information is in a format that is most efficiently transportable in a wireless network. There may be a number of different formats, such as ASCII data, binary data, executable or object code, each suitable for a particular wireless network. The connection information is able to be dynamically changed by updating the configuration table. The configuration table can be updated or altered by a user of a mobile device setting of preferences, by a network operator at the network gateway 104, or by a remote server on the network 108.

However, the connection information of Martin is not information to determine “whether a connection to a specific remote server is permitted.” The connection information of Martin is information on how to use a certain network. According to Martin, the connection information causes certain mobile devices or requests to use wireless network B instead of wireless network A, or requests to different resources on the network to use the same wireless network but with different network characteristics or quality of service. In particular, Martin describes a permitted bearers list 352 that is produced by searching a configuration table for matching entries and then determining those bearers that are available for access to the particular network address. The searching through the configuration table can be done by string searching (e.g., a domain name prefix match) all or some portion of the network address.

The permitted bearers list 354 of Martin indicates those bearers that are permitted to be used when accessing the particular network address. The permitted bearers list 354 is supplied to the selection engine 352. The selection engine 352 also receives an accessible bearers list 356 and an active bearers list 358. The accessible bearers list 356 is a list maintained on the computing device (mobile device) that specifies the bearers which the mobile device currently can access. For example, as a mobile device moves between different geographical locations, the bearers that the mobile device can access change from location to location. The active bearers list 358 is a list of bearers that are currently active with respect to the mobile device. In other words, the active bearers are active because the mobile device currently has a connection to these bearers. The selection engine 352 is then able to select one of the permitted bearers within the permitted bearers list 354 based on information in the accessible bearers list 356 and/or the active bearers list 358. However, the bearers list and related information of Martin is not information to determine “whether a connection to a specific remote server is permitted.”

Applicants have considered the remaining applied references and submits the remaining references do not cure the deficiencies of Otsuka and Martin. As none of the cited art, individually or in combination, discloses or suggests at least the above-noted features of independent claims 1 and 50, Applicants submit the inventions defined by claims 1 and 50, and all claims depending therefrom, are not rendered obvious by the asserted references for at least the reasons stated above.¹

¹ MPEP § 2142 “...the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest **all** the claim limitations.

CONCLUSION

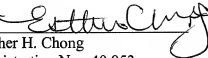
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Michael E. Monaco, Reg. No. 52,041 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.147; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: September 18, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

By 

Esther H. Chong

Registration No.: 40,953

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

8110 Gatehouse Road

Suite 100 East

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, Virginia 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

Attorney for Applicants